

MY WATER SMELLS LIKE NATURAL GAS OR PROPANE GAS

POSSIBLE PROBLEM	HEALTH CONCERN?	OTHER CLUES & CONSIDERATIONS	CONFIRM IT	POSSIBLE FIXES	LICENSE REQUIRED FOR FIX?	STATE FUNDS?	MORE INFO
Leaking Propane Tank (very unlikely, but rule out first)	Yes	Are you having your propane tank filled more frequently than should be expected? Can you smell gas when the water is turned off?	Have your propane tank checked by a professional.	Replace or repair the tank	Call the gas company immediately.	No	

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Sulfur Bacteria See Sulfur Bacteria brochure.	No, Sulfur bacteria are a nuisance, but not a threat to human health. There is no drinking water standard for sulfur bacteria. Hydrogen Sulfide Gas can be harmful to humans, but not at the levels produced by bacteria in wells.	Rule out gasoline contamination first. Sometimes odors are more noticeable after a period of low water use. There are two types of bacteria: sulfur-oxidizing and sulfur-reducing. Hydrogen sulfide gas (produced by reducing bacteria) is highly corrosive and can damage plumbing connections, metal piping and well casing. Some sulfur bacteria form deposits that can clog a well screen and pump piping	Sulfur bacteria samples are difficult to collect and take a long time to analyze. You may wish to have your water tested for iron bacteria instead. Laboratories certified to test for coliform bacteria may also test for iron bacteria. Ask the lab.	Periodic shock chlorination	No, but licensed Well Drillers or Pump Installers have the knowledge and equipment.	No	See Bacteriological Contamination of Drinking Water brochure.
				Increase water heater temperature temporarily and drain tank	No, but do not attempt if water heater does not have a pressure relief valve.	No	This will reduce, but not eliminate sulfur bacteria.
				Replace magnesium anode rods in heater with zinc or aluminum rods	No, but recommend a licensed plumber.	No	This will reduce, but not eliminate sulfur bacteria.
				Continuous pellet chlorination	Licensed Pump Installers or well owners must install. DNR recommends that license holders install.	No	Requires advance DNR approval. See Pellet Chlorination Application .